

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143888

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ORIGIN DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PCH-04 /012 R

66618

DRAFTED BY D/LOS:TCAPPELL:PJA

APPROVED BY D/LOS:SMCINTYRE

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R 031724Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143888

DAKAR POUCH BANJUL

FOLLOWING REPEAT CARACAS 6014 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN
JUL 1ST.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6014

FROM: US DEL LOS

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. JUUEALJ RDS

ET PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: WEEKLY ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

1. SUMMARY: WITH ITS TIMELY ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS OF ITS
RULES OF PROCEDURE, THE LOS CONFERENCE IS OFF TO CONSTRUCTIVE
START. WITH 147 COUNTRIES PRESENT OUT OF 151 INVITED, THE
CONFERENCE SHOWS SIGNS AT THIS EARLY STAGE OF SERIOUSNESS OF
PURPOSE AND DESIRE TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DIVERSIONS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 143888

2. PRECISELY ON SCHEDULE (JUNE 27) THE CONFERENCE BY CONSENSUS AND WITHOUT RESORT TO VOTING REAFFIRMED THE "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS BY CONSENSUS AND NOT VOTE UNTIL ALL EFFORTS AT CONSENSUS HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED AND ADOPTED RULES OF PROCEDURE WHICH ARE IMPROVEMENT OVER UNGA CLASSIC CONFERENCE RULES IN PROTECTING OUR INTERESTS IN THREE RESPECTS: FIRST, EXPRESS PROVISION THAT CONVENTION AS A WHOLE WILL BE PUT TO SINGLE VOTE FOR ADOPTION BY 2/3 MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING, INCLUDING AT LEAST A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF STATES PARTICIPATING. SECOND, A PRELIMINARY RULE REQUIRING THAT, BEFORE ANY SUBSTANTIVE MATTER IS PUT TO THE VOTE, THE PRESIDING OFFICER MAY ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, AND MUST IF 15 REPRESENTATIVES SO REQUEST, RECOMMEND A DEFERMENT OF VOTING SO AS TO GIVE ADDITIONAL TIME TO REACH GENERAL AGREEMENT; THIRD, A RELATED RULE THAT BEFORE A SUBSTANTIVE MATTER IS PUT TO A VOTE, THE ORGAN CONCERNED MUST FIRST MAKE A DETERMINATION THAT ALL EFFORTS AT CONSENSUS HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED. THE USSR, UK AND JAPAN APPEAR WELL SATISFIED WITH THE CONFERENCE'S ACTION. THE LANDLOCKED, SHELF-LOCKED GROUP WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT A TWO THIRD MAJORITY OF STATES PARTICIPATING WAS NOT REQUIRED IN PLENARY AND IN THE FINAL VOTE ON THE TREATY SINCE THIS WOULD GIVE THEM A BLOCKING THIRD. SOME AFRICAN STATES, PARTICULARLY TANZANIA AND KENYA, CRITICIZED THE PACKAGE AS TILTING TOO FAR IN THE DIRECTION OF CONSENSUS AND DELAY, BUT DID NOT BLOCK THE CONSENSUS, LIMITING THEMSELVES TO RESERVATIONS FOR THE RECORD. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE RULES AS A REASONABLE COMPROMISE BETWEEN THOSE FAVORING CONSENSUS AND THE CLASSIC VOTING RULES, AND WERE VERY PLEASED AND SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN ABLE TO ADOPT THE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT AND RULES ON SCHEDULE WITHOUT VOTING. THE ADOPTION OF THESE RULES FOLLOW SEVERAL WEEKS OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD AT VARIOUS TIMES SINCE THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN NEW YORK LAST DECEMBER.

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PAGE 03 STATE 143888

3. THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA HAS MADE AN ENORMOUS EFFORT TO MAKE THIS SESSION A SUCCESS. CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE, WHO EMPHASIZED IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT THE NEED TO MAKE MAJOR PROGRESS AT THIS SESSION EVEN IF FINAL AGREEMENT DOES NOT EMERGE THIS SUMMER, HAS BEEN FORCEFUL, PERSISTENT AND POLITICALLY ASTUTE IN SEEKING AGREEMENT ON THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT AND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THROUGH VIRTUALLY NON-STOP CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
DELEGATIONS MOST CONCERNED.

4. THE CONFERENCE NOW MOVES TO GENERAL DEBATE. ITS MAIN
COMMITTEES MAY ALSO MEET SOON TO ORGANIZE AND COMMENCE THEIR
SUBSTANTIVE WORK. ONE OF THE MORE DIFFICULT ORGANIZATIONAL
QUESTIONS TO BE FACED WILL BE THE FORMATION OF WORKING
GROUPS AND THEIR LEADERSHIP.

5. THERE IS GROWING SUPPORT FOR THE 12-MILE TERRITORIAL
SEA PLUS 188-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WITH THE USSR PUBLICLY
CONFIRMING ON OPENING DAY OF GENERAL DEBATE THAT IT WAS
WILLING TO ACCEPT A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WITH ADEQUATE
PROVISION FOR FOREIGN FISHING WHEN THE COASTAL STATE IS
NOT FULLY UTILIZING THE FISH RESOURCES WITHIN
THE ZONE AND PROVIDED THERE ARE ADEQUATE GUARANTEES FOR
TRANSIT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL STRAITS. WE HAVE INITIATED
PRIVATE CONSULTATION SEPARATELY WITH PERU, ECUADOR AND COSTA
RICA WITH A VIEW TO NARROWING OUR DIFFERENCES WITH PERU AND
ECUADOR ON TREATMENT OF TUNA THROUGH A COMBINATION OF A 200-MILE
ECONOMIC ZONE AND INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSERVATION
AND ALLOCATION OF TUNA. THE US HAS CONTINUED TO COOPERATE BEHIND
THE SCENES ESPECIALLY CLOSELY WITH THE USSR, UK, FRANCE AND
JAPAN, WITH WHOM WE MEET REGULARLY AND SHARE MANY IMPORTANT
COMMON INTERESTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. ALTHOUGH THE EVIDENCE IS LIMITED, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT
MOST PARTICIPANTS WANT MAJOR PROGRESS AT CARACAS WHILE
RECOGNIZING THAT COMPLETION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE TREATY MAY
BE TOO MUCH TO EXPECT IN THE REMAINING NINE WEEKS. WE CONTINUE
TO URGE IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THAT THE CONFERENCE MUST IN ANY
EVENT FINISH ITS WORK NEXT YEAR. WE WOULD WELCOME COOPERATION OF
POSTS ON APPROPRIATE OCCASION IN STRESSING IN CAPITALS CRITICAL
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PAGE 04 STATE 143888

NECESSITY TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS ON AGREED TREATY THIS
SUMMER, PARTICULARLY ON ECONOMIC ZONE AND FINISH NEXT YEAR.
MOST DELEGATIONS APPEAR TO REGARD THE US AS TAKING A MODERATE
POSITION ON THE ISSUES, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF OUR
ATTITUDE ON THE POWERS OF THE DEEP SEABED REGIME, WHICH ALMOST
ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REGARD AS TOO CONSERVATIVE. OUR SERIES
OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN CAPITALS IN RECENT MONTHS HAS
BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND WE HOPE TO SEE SOME VALUABLE
BENEFITS IN THE DIFFICULT WEEKS OF NEGOTIATION WHICH LIE
AHEAD. MULTILATERALLY, THE PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS OF KEY
COUNTRY LEADERS LED BY MINISTER EVENSEN OF NORWAY, IN WHICH
WE HAVE BEEN AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT, HAVE BEEN VALUABLE IN
FORMING THE OUTLINE OF A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE ON THE ECONOMIC
ZONE WHICH PROTECTS OUR INTERESTS.
STEVENSON UNQUOTE SISCO

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SUVA AND BAGHDAD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE143888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TCAPPELL:PJA
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740178-0853, D740178-0033
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740776/aaaacnhz.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: WEEKLY ANALYTICAL SUMMARY
TAGS: PLOS, PBOR, OCON, XX, CARACAS
To: ALL POSTS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005